

PLANT PATENT
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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PLANT PATENT

for

CHRYSANTHEMUM PLANT NAMED 'PEACOCK ROYAL'

by

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This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/421,383, filed October 25, 2002.

LATIN NAME OF THE GENUS AND SPECIES

Botanical classification: *Chrysanthemum morifolium*.

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VARIETY DENOMINATION

The new Chrysanthemum variety denomination is 'Peacock Royal.'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of Chrysanthemum botanically known as *Chrysanthemum morifolium*, and referred to by the cultivar name
10 'Peacock Royal.'

'Peacock Royal,' identified as 30279-2, originated from a whole plant mutation grown in a controlled planting of the patented variety 'Cleagar VZP1' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 11,300) in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom. The new variety 'Peacock Royal' has been asexually reproduced by vegetative cuttings in Chichester, West Sussex,
15 United Kingdom and the distinguishing characteristics are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

'Peacock Royal' is a garden type of Chrysanthemum plant variety having a domed canopy of crimson decorative flowers and a slightly upright habit.

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Comparison with Parent

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Peacock Royal' are similar to the parent variety 'Cleagar VZP1' in plant habit and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Peacock Royal' differed from plants of the
25 parent 'Cleagar VZP1' in the following characteristic.

1. The new variety Peacock Royal' produces crimson flowers whereas the parent 'Cleagar VZP1' produces purple flowers.

Comparison with Other Varieties

Plants of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Peacock Royal' are dissimilar to the variety 'Jenny Wren' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 10,213) in plant habit and growth rate. In side-by-side comparisons in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom, under commercial practice, plants of the new variety 'Peacock Royal' differed from 'Jenny Wren' in the following characteristics.

1. The new variety 'Peacock Royal' produces smaller flowers than 'Jenny Wren.'
2. The new variety 'Peacock Royal' has a more upright and less spreading habit than 'Jenny Wren.'

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATION

Typical specimens of the plant and flowers for the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Peacock Royal' are shown in the accompanying digital photograph. The colors shown are as true as possible within the usual limits of this kind of illustration. Figure 1 is a whole plant view of the new variety 'Peacock Royal' grown in a pot. The plant shown in the illustration is 70 days from the commencement of planting outdoors in mid-June.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following description of the new Chrysanthemum variety 'Peacock Royal' is of plants grown outside, natural season, in Chichester, West Sussex, United Kingdom in the month of June. The cultivar has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in the environment such as temperature, length of day and light intensity, without any variance in genotype. The commercial classification of the new variety is a garden Chrysanthemum.

Plants of the new variety have been grown successfully under temperature conditions averaging about 50°F at night and about 70°F to 75°F during the day under natural light conditions. The plants were grown outdoors in mid-June in 4 liter pots using a loamless compost. No growth retardants were used. To produce a commercial product the plants may be pinched once with the center bud removed. The typical container size for commercial growth is 4 liters (8"). It has been observed that the shelf life of the new

variety is about 25 days with a response time of about 10 weeks natural season. The new variety is suitable for growth in a temperature range of 50°F to 75°F.

The new variety may be produced as a pot plant. The following description is with respect to a plant produced as garden pot plant. In the description of this new
5 Chrysanthemum variety, color values have been taken from the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart (R.H.S.C.C.).

Plant

Plant type: Pot

Habit: Domed - Round - Upright

10 Height: 50 cm

Width: 48 cm

Branching characteristics: Free Branching - Slightly Curving

Length of Lateral Branches: 30-40 cm

Number of Breaks from Pinch: 5-7

15 Stem Color: near 152C

Response Time: 70 days natural season

Vigor: Medium/Tall

Shelf Life: 25 days

Disease (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

20 Pest (Susceptibility/Resistance observed): None observed to date

Growth retardant type and treatment: No treatment necessary

The plants were grown for 10 weeks in natural season conditions

Propagation:

Type: Vegetative Propagation via Stem Cuttings

25 *Time to rooting:* 12 days with soil temperatures of 70° F

Rooting habit: Fine and Fibrous

Foliage

Number of Leaves Per Lateral Branch: 12-13

Compound or single: Single

Arrangement of Leaves: Alternate

Shape of Leaf: Typically 5 lobed ovate

Size of Leaf: *Width* (cm): 2-4 *Length* (cm): 5-7

5 Leaf Apex: Acute

Base: Truncate

Attachment: Petioled

Aspect: Slightly undulating

Margin: Palmately Lobed

10 Surface characteristics: *Top*: Slightly Pubescent

Bottom: Slightly Pubescent

Petiole: *Color:* near 141B

Length: 1.5-2.5 cm

Venation : Net prominent mid vein at underside

15 *Color: upper side: near 141D*

under side: near 141D

Color: Mature Leaf, *upper side*: near 138A; *under side*: near 138B

Young Leaf, *upper side*: near 139B; *under side*: near 139B

Flower

20 Flower appearance: Matte

Flower type: Decorative

Flower form: Slightly Incurving

Flower shape: Round

Flowering habit: Cyme

25 Number of blossoms per branch: 7-8

Inflorescence form: Corymibiform

Depth of fully expanded blossoms: 2 cm

Diameter of fully expanded blossoms: 4.5-5.5 cm

- Phyllaries: *Number:* 18-20
 Color: near 137C
 Length: 5-8 mm
 5 *Width:* 1.5-2 mm
 Texture/Appearance: Slightly Pubescent
- Pedicel: *Length:* terminal: 12 cm; lateral: 8 cm
 Color: near 139C
 Surface: Pubescent
 10 *Habit:* Slightly Curving
 Strength: Medium/Strong
- Ray florets: *Form/Shape:* Straight
 Texture/Appearance: Matte
 Number per flower: 190-210
 15 *Length:* 1.5-2.5 cm; *Width:* 3-8 mm
 Apex: Rounded/Slightly Dentate
 Base: Tubular
 Margin: Entire
- Disc florets: None observed
- 20 Fragrance: None
- Flower Bud (at onset of color):
 Length: 1 cm
 Diameter: 1 cm
 Form/Shape: Globular
- 25 General flower color:
1. Ray florets, *upper side:*
 Immature: near 46A
 Mature: near 45B
 Older/Fading: near 47B

2. Ray florets, *under side*:
Immature: near 46A
Mature: near 45B
Older/Fading: near 47B

- 5 3. Disc florets: None observed
4. Bud: near 145B

Flower progression with age: Flowers fade uniformly with age with some rolling of petals.

Reproductive Organs

- 10 Gynoecium present on Ray florets.

Ray florets per individual flower:

- Pistil number*: 40-50 observed
Stigma color: near 150C
Stigma shape: Forked
15 *Style color*: near 150C
Style length: 2-3 mm

Androecium not observed.

Fruit and Seeds: None observed